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(1110)

4/22/69

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Plans

SUBJECT : Summary of Chilean Congressional Election Operation

1. The following is a brief summary of CIA activity in support of moderate candidates in the Chilean congressional elections of 2 March 1969. Attached is a briefing paper containing salient facts pertaining to that election.

2. The election program, in brief, was to support those candidates of the Christian Democratic, Radical and National Parties whose election would strengthen moderate political forces in the Chilean Congress and counteract the leftist drift toward a possible popular front victory in the 1970 presidential election. The election of moderate candidates was also intended to create a congressional "brake" in the event that a popular front candidate is successful in 1970.

3. An election team of Embassy and Station officers was established under the chairmanship of Ambassador Edward M. Korry to identify those candidates to whom support would be given. Support was given to the candidates on an individual basis, either directly or indirectly, rather than through a political party. In a majority of the cases, support consisted entirely of propaganda; in some cases, money was passed directly to the candidate.

4. The main thrust of the propaganda effort was to create a psychological climate favorable to the election of moderate candidates and the defeat of extreme leftists. As a part of this effort, the Station financed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A [REDACTED] propaganda unit was also established [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

5. The election program supported 12 congressional candidates, 10 of whom were elected. [REDACTED] The Station also supported a splinter Socialist party, in the amount of [REDACTED] in an effort to weaken the left. [REDACTED] report this operation cost the Castro-oriented Socialist Party 7 congressional seats which were filled by moderate candidates. The most outstanding [REDACTED] victory was the election of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6. A total of about [REDACTED] was spent for the election program.

7. A final report is now being prepared for formal submission to the JOG Committee.

William V. Bros
Chief

Western Hemisphere Division

Attachment:
Briefing Paper

DDP/WH/ [REDACTED] (10 March 1969)

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